

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 33-35 and 38-48.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 27, 31-35 and 37-50 are pending. Claims 33-35 and 38-48 have been allowed. Furthermore, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 27, 31, 32, 37, 49 and 50 have been canceled without prejudice.

II. 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph Rejections

Claim 49 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement on the grounds that the term "about" recited in this claim in connection with the width of the protrusion and the width of the spacer broadens the scope of the claim beyond what is described in the original disclosure.

As noted above, claim 49 has been canceled herewith without prejudice to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, the above rejection is now moot and removal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

(i) Claims 27, 31, 32 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0075798 to Inoue et al. ("the Inoue publication").

(ii) Claims 27, 31, 32, 37 and 49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Inoue publication in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,897,918 to Nonaka et al. ("the Nonaka patent").

(iii) Claims 27, 31, 32, 37 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Inoue publication in view of JP 11-352489 (the JP '489 publication), using patent family member US 2005/0140887 to Song et al. (the Song Publication) as an English-language description of JP '489.

As noted above claims 27, 31, 32, 37, 49 and 50 have been canceled without prejudice. These claims have been canceled for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application but in no way constitute an admission regarding the merits of the above rejections.

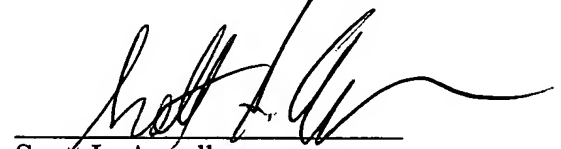
Accordingly, the above rejections are now moot and thus removal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION:

In summary, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that end is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in furthering prosecution of the subject application, applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott L. Appelbaum', is written over a horizontal line.

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